

UCC Issues \$250,000 Appeal for Typhoon Haiyan Response

UCC article from November 11, 2013

The United Church of Christ today issued an appeal to church members and friends for \$250,000 to support Typhoon Haiyan response efforts.

“UCC people are known to be compassionate and generous. We anticipate this appeal being fully funded as an embodiment of our UCC core values,” said James Moos, executive minister for Wider Church Ministries.

Typhoon Haiyan has killed as many as 10,000 people in the Philippines, with the devastation it caused being described as “absolute bedlam,” the BBC reported. Nearly 4.5 million persons have been affected by the storm.

Hardest hit is the central Philippine city of Tacloban, which is said to be flattened and where hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced. The damage to communications, airports and roads is hampering initial relief efforts, according to Ric Jontarciego, United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) Disaster Coordinator.

While much focus has already been put on Tacloban, the UCCP reports that cities and towns in other parts of the Philippines are also facing huge losses. The areas hit cover already poverty-stricken communities, which have suffered from successive and simultaneous emergencies. On October 15, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck Bohol province in central Philippines. As a result of that emergency alone, over 344,300 people are displaced and living in makeshift shelters built in open spaces near their homes. These people are in dire need of food, non-food items and other emergency relief materials.

Haiyan is now a tropical storm, having weakened as it made landfall near the Vietnam-China border.

The UCC will support early response and recovery efforts of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines as well as partners in the ACT Alliance that have significant operations in the Philippines, including the National Council of Churches in the Philippines,



United Methodist Committee on Relief, Lutheran World Relief and Christian Aid. Initial response activities will likely include material resource provision, emergency shelter items, drinking water and cash for work programs.

While the impact of the weakened typhoon in Vietnam is yet to be fully assessed, the UCC will respond there with recovery support if it is needed.

Long-term response initiatives and partners will be supported as funds are available. It is likely a disaster of this magnitude will require multiple years for recovery.

Initial support grants funded by One Great Hour of Sharing have been sent to the ACT Alliance and UCCP.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. Pray for the people impacted by Typhoon Haiyan, UCC partner organizations active in response efforts, and all humanitarian workers.
2. To assist people in recovering from this disaster, please make a gift payable to “St. Paul’s UCC” marked for “Typhoon Haiyan.”

or

Make a secure online donation through the UCC at http://www.ucc.org/disaster/philippines_typhoon_appeal.html. Please note “Typhoon Haiyan” in the Comments Box.



Thank you for your compassion and support.